



CEQA and Permit Process Overview

Distributed Generation Projects

Presented at:

**California Energy Commission
Siting Committee Workshop Evaluating
Distributed Generation CEQA and Permit Streamlining**
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Shirley F. Rivera

RESOURCE CATALYSTS (R|CAT)

sfrivera@adnc.com | 619-497-0120



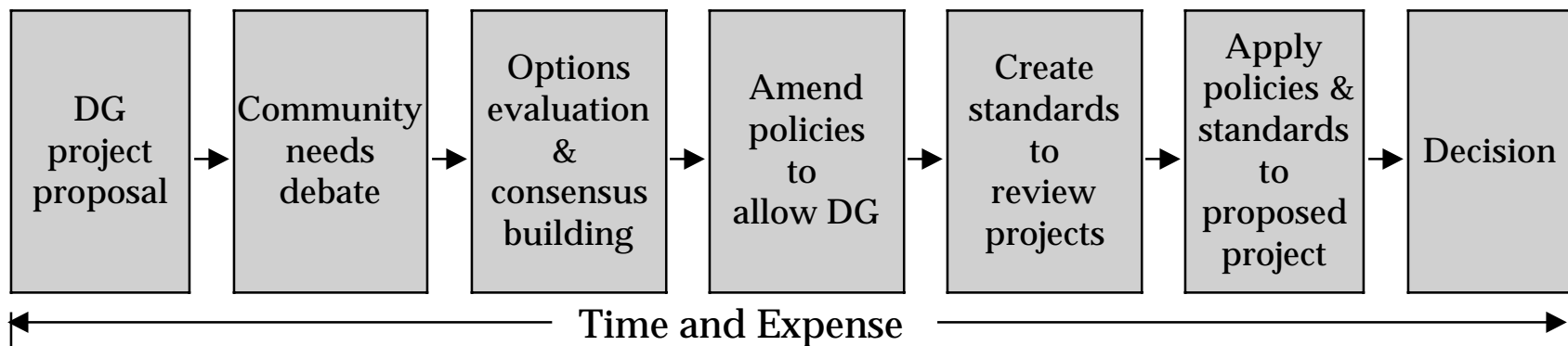


Presentation Overview

- ♦ **Project Approval Process Issues**
- ♦ **Siting and Environmental Considerations**
- ♦ **CEQA Overview**
- ♦ **Permit Process Overview**
- ♦ **Streamlining Opportunities**

Project Approval Process Issues

4 CURRENT PRACTICE



- **Project defined up front with little outside input**
- **Agency approvals sought; not all identified**
- **Debates regarding regulatory issues/compliance**
- **Iterative process may result in delays/changes**



Who is the “community” or “public”?

Differing Perceptions/Concerns

- ◆ Industry
- ◆ Regulators
- ◆ Elected officials
- ◆ Activists
- ◆ Employees and retirees
- ◆ Neighbors (especially those impacted)
- ◆ Concerned citizens
- ◆ Experts (e.g., scientists)
- ◆ Media

REFERENCE: Sandman, P.M. 1995. Responding to Community Outrage: Strategies for Effective Risk Communication, Fairfax, VA: American Industrial Hygiene Association



Limited Integration of Agencies

♦ Planning Agencies

- Long-term perspective
- Ensure proper and beneficial land use with minimum impacts to environment
- Cost-effectiveness considers regional and economic development
- Project acceptance can move forward without necessarily securing all permits



Limited Integration of Agencies

♦ Permitting Agencies

- Short-term perspective
- Ensure compliance with environmental rules with minimum impacts to public health
- Cost-effectiveness considers agency benchmarks
- Permits can be secured without requiring review by a planning agency (for smaller projects)



Siting and Environmental Considerations

Siting / Environmental Considerations

♦ Environmental


- Air Quality / Noise
- Public Health
- Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Soil Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Biological Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Land Use
- Visual Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Traffic and Transportation
- Hazardous Materials Mat
- Industrial/Worker Safety
- Alternatives

♦ Energy/Engineering

- EMF Considerations
- Transmission/Voltage Support
- Geological Hazards/Resources
- Interconnections
- Alternatives

♦ Social

- Environmental Justice
- Risk Communication
- Public Safety
- Green Taxes and Pricing
- Emission Reduction Credits and Trading



Project Phases - Considerations

♦ Project Design

- design approvals
- equipment type
- equipment capacity
- operations
- effluents - air, water
- site-specific and region-specific issues
- project alternatives
- extent of project, e.g., multiple sites, multiple units
- environmental impacts

♦ Project Construction

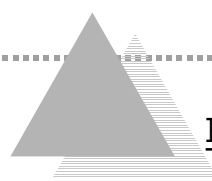
- pre-construction approvals
- site preparation
- program approvals
- equipment

♦ Project Start-Up

- operating approvals
- effluent testing
- program approvals

♦ Project Operations

- regulatory compliance
- program approvals



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Approval Considerations

◆ Multiple Agencies

- Federal
- State
- Local - City, County

◆ Cross-Cutting Issues

- Air Quality / Haz Mat
- Land Use /
Environmental Justice

◆ Competing Lead Time

- Application Submittal
- Review Process





Examples: *Approval Considerations*

- ♦ **Air Agency Permit to Construct / Operate**
 - exempt? emission control introduces haz mat?
- ♦ **Planning Department / Public Works**
 - visual/aesthetics; land use/zoning compatibility; noise ordinance
- ♦ **State Agency - Pressure Vessels**
- ♦ **Health / Fire Department**
 - Hazardous Materials and Waste
 - Fire Safety and Electrical
- ♦ **Other Industry Specifications**



CEQA Overview



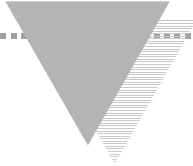
Evaluation Process

- ♦ **Does activity qualify as a “project”?**
 - There are certain definitions of “project” based on the type of activity
- ♦ **Is project “exempt”?**
 - Determine if: ministerial, no significant effect, statutory exemption, categorical exemption
- ♦ **What is result of “initial study”?**
 - Consult with agencies
 - Determine if: negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration



Environmental Impact Report

- ♦ **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**
 - Draft EIR
 - Final EIR
- ♦ **Examples Types of EIRs to Consider**
 - Project EIR - impacts of specific development proj.
 - As part of General Plan
 - Program EIR - series of related projects
 - Tiering of EIR



Permit Process Overview

DG DO's "*Roadmap*"

PREPARE

- Issues
- Agencies
- Regulations

EXECUTE

- Scope
- Information
- Do Your Homework

COMMUNICATE

- Target Audience
- Common Language
- Compromise

*If at first you
don't succeed ...*

PROJECT SUCCESS!



DG DO #1: *Prepare*

♦ **ISSUES?**


- Understand potential siting and environmental issues

♦ **AGENCIES?**

- Identify the approval agencies, as well as interested public members

♦ **REGULATIONS?**

- Know regulatory requirements for your project location



DG DO #2: *Execute*

♦ **SCOPE**

- Scope out the issues and barriers

♦ **INFORMATION**

- Compile and submit all requisite (and then some) information, forms, and fees for reviewing agencies

♦ **DO YOUR HOMEWORK**

- Take advantage of “lessons learned” by other DG project efforts



DG DO #3: *Communicate*

◆ **TARGET AUDIENCE**

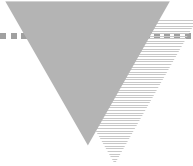
- Inform the “public” of project impacts

◆ **COMMON LANGUAGE**

- Speak the “language” of the reviewing agencies (and public)

◆ **COMPROMISE**

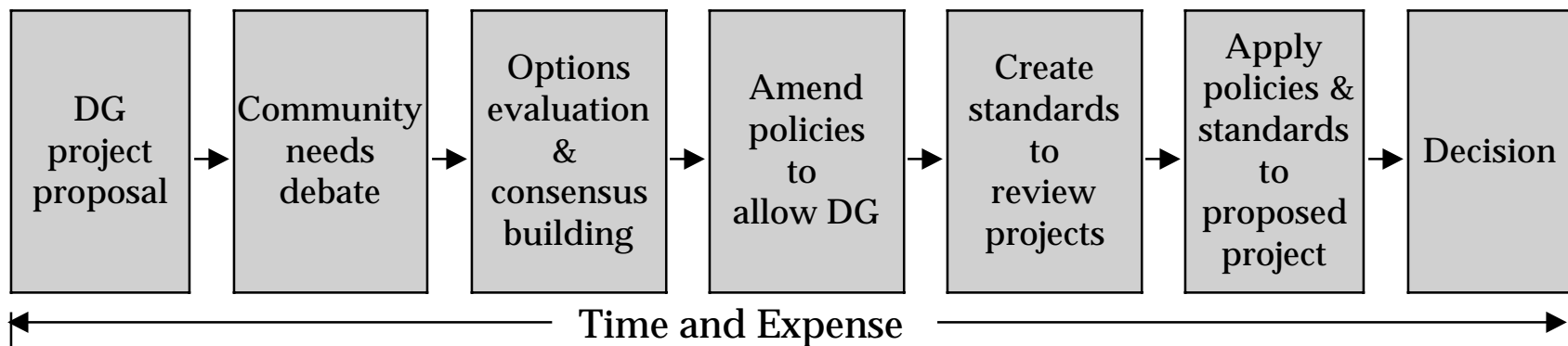
- Negotiate to overcome barriers



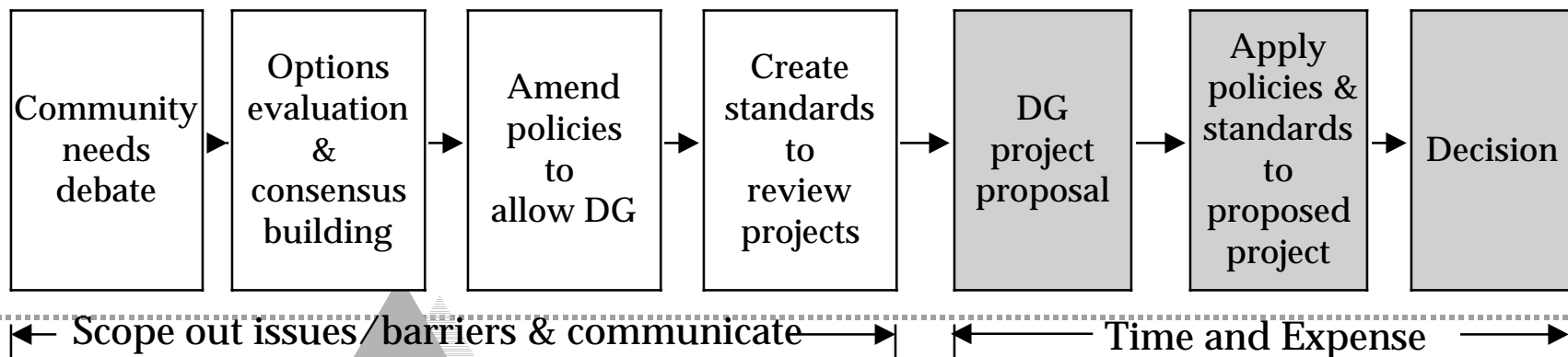
Streamlining Opportunities

Streamline the Current Process

CURRENT PRACTICE



STREAMLINED APPROACH





Streamline the Process

- ♦ **Siting/Permitting Certainty**
 - Develop guidelines and infrastructure
 - Collaborate with involved agencies
- ♦ **“Template” permit / program approvals**
 - Standard project review and permit process
 - Pre-determined compliance requirements
- ♦ **Central Permit Effort**
 - Prescribed review / approval timeframes, “30/60”
 - One-stop permitting, including multi-media
- ♦ **Consistent legislation, regulations, policies**
 - Resolve competing objectives up front



For questions or more information:

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Shirley F. Rivera

sfrivera@adnc.com

Tel: 619-497-0120 | Fax: 619-497-0793

